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SOUTHWEST ASIAN HEROIN INITIATIVE

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE GROUP

PROGRESS REPORT 7/30/80

The Foreign Intelligence Group has completed a review of intelligence collection and production on the Southwest Asian heroin threat and has identified several critical information gaps. These gaps exist, in large measure, because until relatively recently Southwest Asian heroin began to affect Europe and the United States, the Southwest Asian narcotics situation has had a relatively low collection priority. Furthermore, intelligence collection resources, particularly in the Southwest Asia target area, are severely limited. The Foreign Intelligence Group has formulated a comprehensive strategy to improve all-source intelligence collection and to coordinate the intelligence in support of Southwest Asian heroin control initiatives.

As a first step the Group has secured the concurrence of the policy-making principals on a list of key intelligence questions. The Group has also drafted a set of national-level intelligence requirements designed to answer these questions. The Domestic Policy Staff has submitted this list to the principals for their concurrence and action. (See attachments).

In the months ahead the Group will be working on several initiatives regarding Southwest Asian heroin:

- Agency representatives to the Group will screen existing operational and investigative reporting not presently available to the intelligence and policy communities and develop recommendations for processing and formatting this information for dissemination as foreign intelligence
- The Group will recommend the establishment of collection programs designed to remedy shortfalls or gaps in reporting
- The Group will prepare a comprehensive assessment of the impact which collection and reporting problems are having on intelligence production
- The Group will seek the reactivation of the long-dormant Subcommittee on Narcotics of the Critical Collections Problems Committee of the National Foreign Intelligence Board in order to formalize these initiatives within the Intelligence Community structure

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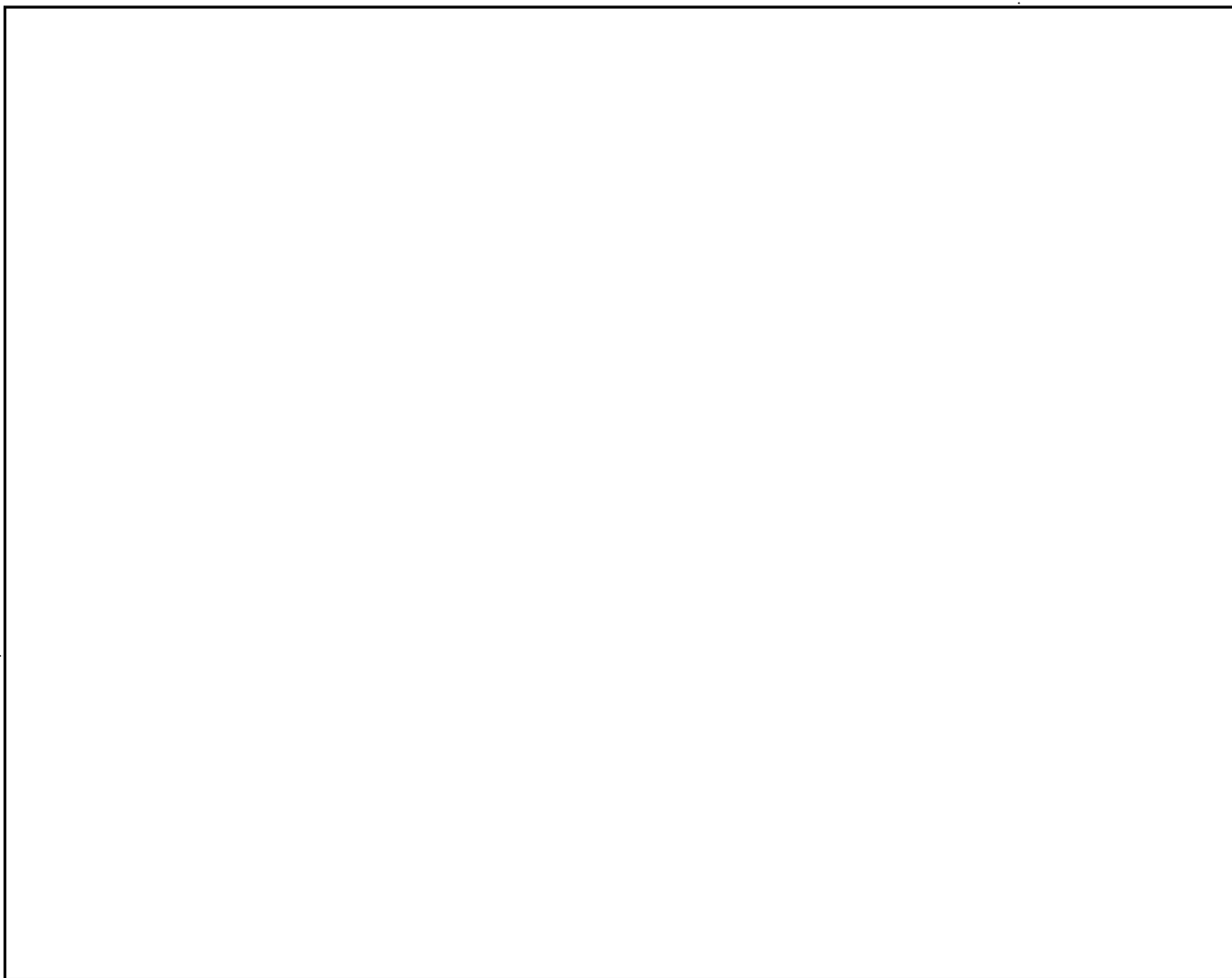
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While the Group anticipates that collection will remain a critical problem for some time, it has developed a schedule of intelligence production which will address the immediate needs of the policymakers. In the near-term the Group will prepare a preliminary overview of Southwest Asia; the CIA has already completed a videotape on the situation for briefings of policy officials. The Group will edit an unclassified version of the videotape for the general public. In the longer-term the Group will prepare two major regional assessments: one of the major poppy and heroin source countries of Southwest Asia and the other on the situation in the transit and victim countries of Europe. The Group will establish terms of reference and develop an outline for each project in consultation with the policy community. Completion of these interagency assessments is scheduled for the end of 1980.

In addition to these collection and production projects conducted under the aegis of the Foreign Intelligence Group, participating agencies either have completed or are undertaking their own initiatives in support of the Steering Group. A representative sample, broken down by function, follows:

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